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URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL
OF ORMSKIRK.

Annual Report

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

FOR

THE YEAR - 1937.

JOHN YOUNG, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.,
Medical Officer of Health.

A. Finch & Son, Printers, Ormskirk.

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JOHN YOUNG, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.,
Medical Officer of Health.

NORMAN W. CHADWICK, A.R. San. I.,
Sanitary and Meat Inspector.

SIDNEY R. DALY, A.R. San. I.,
Additional Sanitary Inspector.

Annual Report for 1937.

Ormskirk,

May, 1938.

To the Chairman and Members of the Ormskirk Urban District Council.

Gentlemen,

I beg to present my Annual Report for 1937.

SECTION A.

Statistics and Social Conditions of the Area.

Area—15,608 acres, mainly flat or undulating.

Population—The population, according to the 1931 Census, was 17,121, and the Registrar-General estimates that at the middle of the year the population was 18,300.

Number of Inhabited Houses—At the end of 1937 the number of inhabited houses, according to the Rate Books, was 5,021.

The Rateable Value at the end of the year was £103,833, and the sum represented by a penny rate was £396.

Social Conditions—The district is mainly inhabited by middle and working class people, with some very poor.

Unemployment is unfortunately still prevalent.

Chief Industries—A brass foundry, 2 breweries, 1 ropewalk, 1 ironfoundry, 2 timber yards, 1 printing and bookbinding works, 1 flour mill, 1 oatmeal mill, 3 brickworks, 2 cake manufacturers, 1 wooden handle works, R.A.O.C. Depot.

The main industry of the district is Agriculture.

VITAL STATISTICS.

The following figures are supplied by the Registrar General :

	TOTAL.	M.	F.
Live Births—Legitimate	223	118	105
Illegitimate	9	6	3
Total	232	124	108

Birth Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population, 12·6.

	TOTAL.	M.	F.
Still Births	10	4	6

Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births, 41.

	TOTAL.	M.	F.
Deaths	218	125	93

Death Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population 11.9*

Deaths from puerperal causes—

	Deaths	Death Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births.
Puerperal sepsis	nil	.....
Other puerperal causes	1	.....
Total	1	..... 4.13

Death Rate of Infants under one year of age :—

All infants per 1,000 live births	68
Legitimate Infants, per 1,000 legitimate live births	53
Illegitimate Infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births	444
Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	28
Deaths from Measles (all ages)	Nil
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)	Nil
Deaths from Diarrhœa (under 2 years of age)	3

	Per 1,000 of Estimated Population.				Maternal Mortality Rate.		
	Live Birth Rate	Crude Death Rate	Death Rate from Tuberculosis of the Respiratory System.	Death Rate from Cancer	Per 1,000 Live Births	Per 1000 Total (Live and Still) Births	Rate of Deaths under 1 year per 1,000 Live Births
Population, 18,300.							
Mean of 5 years, 1932–1936	13.3	11.9	0.49	1.67	5.03	4.79	65
Year 1936	13.6	11.2	0.33	1.54	nil	nil	40
Year 1937	12.6*	11.9	0.32	1.53	4.31	4.13	68
Increase or decrease in 1937 on—							
5 years' average, 1932–1936	—0.7	nil	—0.17	—0.14	—0.72	—0.66	+3
Previous year	—1.0	+0.7	—0.01	—0.01	+4.31	+4.13	+28

* 1937 adjusted death-rate comparability factor, 0.97 = 11.5 per 1,000.

The Birth-rate for England & Wales was 14.9 for Ormskirk 12.6.
The Death-rate for England & Wales was 12.4 for Ormskirk 11.5.
The Infantile Mortality rate ,, ,, 58 for Ormskirk 68.
The Maternal Mortality rate ,, ,, 3.23 for Ormskirk 4.13.

Details of the Deaths are as follows: —

Causes of Death.	M.	F.
Typhoid	1	—
Influenza	6	5
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	3	3
G. P. I., Tabes, etc.	3	—
Cancer	17	11
Diabetes	1	3
Cerebral Hæmorrhage, etc.	6	2
Heart Disease	39	24
Circulatory Diseases	1	2
Bronchitis	3	4
Pneumonia (all forms)	7	2
Peptic Ulcer	2	—
Diarrhœa (under 2 years)	1	2
Appendicitis	1	1
Cirrhosis of Liver	1	—
Other Liver Diseases	1	—
Other Digestive Diseases	1	3

	M.	F.
Acute and Chronic Nephritis	3	4
Puerperal Causes	—	1
Congenital Debility, Premature Birth, etc.	4	4
Senility	10	8
Suicide	1	—
Other Violence	3	6
Other Defined Diseases	7	8
Ill Defined or not known	3	—
Total	125	93

No deaths were due to Measles, Whooping Cough, Scarlet Fever, or Diphtheria.

One death was due to Paratyphoid Fever; and three children under the age of 2 years died of Diarrhœa.

SECTION B.

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA.

Medical Officer of Health—John Young, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

Sanitary and Meat Inspector—Norman W. Chadwick, A.R.San.I. (Certificated Meat Inspector).

Additional Sanitary Inspector—Sidney R. Daly, A.R.San.I.

Temporary Staff.—Frederick Baker and J. Bromley, who were engaged under the provisions of the Housing Act, 1935, for making the Overcrowding Survey, finished duty at the end of February.

Laboratory and Ambulance Facilities, Etc.—There have not been any changes in Laboratory, Ambulance facilities, Nursing in the home, Treatment Centres, or Hospitals, as all these services are working satisfactorily.

SECTION C.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

1.—Water.—During the year the Council embarked on a scheme for installing new Pumping Plant at their Greetby Hill Pumping Station. Briefly, the proposals included a new Pumping Station over the No. 2 Well, a new Borehole at the base of No. 1 Well, 30″ in diameter for 136-ft. and 24″ in diameter for a further 50-ft., duplicate Electrical Pumping Plant, and Automatic Switch Gearing. The costs were: —

	£
Mains	3,799
Pumps, etc.	2,141
Buildings	735
Boring and Test Pumping	844
Total	£7,519

The major portion of the expenditure on mains was incurred in the laying of a new 9″ main to Lathom Park, in anticipation of the erection of the new Mental Hospital.

Good progress has been made on the works. The mains have been laid, and the No. 2 Station completed and working. A commencement will be made on the Boring works and the No. 1 Well preparatory to the installation of pumping plant. There was naturally some uncertainty as to whether the required yield would be obtained, considering the falling off of the supply during recent years, but the optimism of the Council was amply justified when the test pumping revealed that 33,000 gallons per hour could be obtained at a depth of 90-ft., *i.e.*, 30-ft. deeper than the level at which approximately 14,000 gallons per hour were being pumped.

When the Greetby Hill Station has been completed, it will be necessary to turn attention to the Dark Lane Works, in order to ensure that these works are capable of dealing with the supplies in the Burscough Area.

Chemical and Bacteriological Reports throughout the year have proved satisfactory.

2.—Drainage and Sewage.—A 9″ sewer across land on the north side of Yew Tree Road, which will eventually serve properties with cesspools situated in Burscough Road, Ormskirk, has been laid.

3.—Rivers and Streams.—It has not been necessary to take any action in this matter during the year.

CLOSET ACCOMMODATION AT THE END OF 1937.

Number of middens, 772. Number of closets attached to these middens, 802.

Number of pail closets, 76. Number of dry ashpits (excluding middens), 164.

Number of fresh water closets, 4,080. Number of movable ashbins for refuse, 3,146.

Number of waste water closets, 25.

CONVERSIONS.

		During 1937.	During five years 1932—1936.
No. of privy closets—	To fresh w.c.s	17	374
	To waste w.c.s	0	0
	To pails, etc.	0	0
No. of pail closets—	To fresh w.c.s	0	13
	To waste w.c.s	0	0
No. of waste w.c.s to fresh w.c.s		23	0
No. of houses at which movable ashbins have been substituted for fixed receptacles		17	397

PUBLIC CLEANSING.

Public Cleansing.—The removal of household refuse is carried out by the Council's own carts and motor vehicles, and is disposed of by tipping and incineration. There have been no alterations in the arrangements for public cleansing during the year, as the present method has proved satisfactory.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA.

Number of Premises visited:—

Houses	261
Lodging Houses	2
Bakehouses	17
Workshops	48
Factories	37
Cowsheds and Dairies	35
Slaughter Houses, including Farms	70

Number of defects or nuisances discovered, 244.
Number abated, 240.
Number of notices served: Informal 244, Statutory 37.
No legal proceedings were taken.

SHOPS.

At the request of the County Council, a systematic inspection of the shops within the district has been commenced under the Shops Act, 1934.

This deals with the hours of employment of young persons, and the necessary forms to be kept for recording same, intervals for meals

for young persons, day of weekly half-holiday, seating accommodation for female assistants, and the health and comfort of the workers, *i.e.*, lighting, washing facilities, and facilities for meals.

In addition to the above, the Local Authority is responsible for seeing that the requirements relating to sanitary accommodation, ventilation, and temperature are complied with.

Ventilation and temperature were generally found to be satisfactory. With regard to sanitary accommodation, fifteen notices were served where the accommodation was either insufficient or defective.

SMOKE ABATEMENT.

New Bye-Laws were made during the year limiting the emission of black smoke from any chimney other than that of a private dwelling-hnuse to a period of two minutes in the aggregate within any continuous period of thirty minutes. These were confirmed by the Minister of Health on the 20th April, 1937.

Twenty-one observations were made during the year, and written notices served under Section 102, Public Health Act, 1936, where nuisances were discovered.

SWIMMING BATHS AND POOLS.

There are two privately-owned swimming baths in the district, but these are not open to the public.

ERADICATION OF BED BUGS.

It was not found necessary to disinfest any houses owned by the Council. Two privately-owned houses, however, were found to be infested, and notices were served on the owner for the disinfestation of same, and this was done by the use of hydrogen cyanide gas, the work being carried out by a firm of fumigation contractors.

All furniture belonging to the tenants displaced from Clearance Areas is subjected to hydrogen cyanide gas before it is removed to the new houses.

SCHOOLS.

There has been no change of any moment in the condition of the Elementary Schools. The Head Teachers and the School Attendance Officers are always helpful when any Infectious disease occurs.

SECTION D.

HOUSING.

During the year the Council made Clearance Orders in respect of eight areas in their district. These were known as Clearance Areas Nos. 21 to 28, and comprised thirty-two houses with a total population of 121 persons.

Objections were received by the Minister of Health in respect of Orders Nos. 21, 24 and 26.

The Minister caused a local inquiry to be held, and for this purpose P. A. Hopkins, Esquire, O.B.E., F.R.I.B.A., attended at the Council Offices on the 4th August, 1937, and received the evidence of all persons interested in the matter.

Confirmation Orders in respect of all the property were received from the Minister on the 11th November, 1937.

Confirmation Orders were also received on the 23rd February, 1937, in respect of Clearance Orders Nos. 10 to 20, which were made by the Council on the 30th June, 1936.

(*a*) Statistics.

Number of new houses erected during the year—

(a) Total, including numbers given separately under (b)	128
(i) By the Local Authority	Nil
(ii) By other Local Authorities	Nil
(iii) By other bodies and persons	128
(b) With State assistance under the Housing Acts :	
(i) By the Local Authority	Nil
(ii) By other bodies or persons	Nil

1. *Inspection of Dwelling-Houses during the year—*

(1) (a) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under the Public Health or Housing Acts)	261
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	690
(2) (a) Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925	134
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	396
(3) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	41
(4) Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects fit for human habitation	220

2. *Remedy of defects during the year without service of Formal Notices—*

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers . 178

3. *Action under Statutory Powers during the year—*

A.—Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936.

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs 17

(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices :—

(a) By owners 5

(b) By Local Authority in default of owners Nil

B.—Proceedings under Public Health Acts :

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied 110

(2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :

(a) By owners 37

(b) By Local Authority in default of owners Nil.

C.—Proceedings under sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936 :

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made 6

(2) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders : Nil

D.—Proceedings under section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936:

(1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made Nil

(2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit Nil

4. *Housing Act*, 1936. *Part IV. Overcrowding—*

(a) (i) Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year 155

(ii) Number of families dwelling therein 174

(iii) Number of persons dwelling therein 1,188

(b) Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year .... Nil

(c) (i) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year .... Nil

(ii) Number of persons concerned in such cases ..... Nil

SECTION E.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

(a) Milk Supply.—Regular inspections were made of all dairies, cowsheds and milkshops in the district, and notices served when found necessary, but in most cases the general condition of the premises was found to be satisfactory.

At the request of the County Council twenty-four samples of milk were taken from schools in the district for examination for Tubercle Bacilli, and all were found to be satisfactory.

One bottling licence, three supplementary licences, and two dealers' licences were issued under the Milk (Special Designations) Order, 1936.

(b) MEAT AND OTHER FOODS—

CARCASES INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED.

	CATTLE (excluding Cows)	COWS	CALVES	SHEEP and LAMBS	PIGS
Number Killed	366	63	8	617	1017
Number Inspected	366	63	8	617	1017
All diseases except Tuberculosis—					
Whole carcases condemned ...	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	2
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	12	6	Nil	7	Nil
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than Tuberculosis	3·27	9·52	Nil	1·15	·195
Tuberculosis only—					
Whole carcases condemned ...	1	3	Nil	Nil	3
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	Nil	2	Nil	Nil	22.
Percentage of the number inspected affected with Tuberculosis	·27	7·93	Nil	Nil	2·45

Slaughter houses, meat shops and stalls are visited weekly.

(c) Adulteration.—The Food and Drugs (Adulteration) Act, 1928, is administered by the County Police, and I am indebted to Superintendent Jackson for the following information:—

Samples taken during 1937—

Milk	31
Butter	2
Sugar	2
Tea	1
Coffee	3
Jam	1
Pepper	2
Margarine	1
Cheese	2
Lard	1
Cocoa	1

Upon examination, all the above samples proved to be genuine.

(d) Chemical and Bacteriological Examination of Food.—The Public Health Laboratory, Liverpool, is used for this purpose, but it was not deemed necessary to submit any specimens during the year.

(e) Nutrition.—Dissemination of Knowledge: Lectures are given on this and allied subjects by the Public Health Staff of the County Council.

(*f*) Shell-Fish (Molluscan).—There are no shell fish beds or layings in the district.

SECTION F.

PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.

The year has been a normal one as regards Infectious Disease, with the exception of 3 cases of the Typhoid Group, which were directly or indirectly infected from outside the district. One of these unfortunately perforated and died in hospital. Immunization against Diphtheria is offered free, but the response is not encouraging. Influenza was prevalent during January and February.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES (other than Tuberculosis) DURING THE YEAR, 1937.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES.	TOTAL CASES NOTIFIED.													Total Deaths (The figures in this column should agree with those supplied by the Registrar General).	Hospital	
	Total Cases at all Ages	YEARS,													Total Cases removed to Hospital	Deaths in Hospital of persons belonging to district.
		Under 1	1	2	3	4	5	10	15	20	35	45	65 and over			
Scarlet Fever	30		2	2	2	3	9	7		4	1				28	
Diphtheria (including membranous croup)	12						4	5	2	1					12	
Enteric fever (including paratyphoid)	3					1				2				1	3	1
Acute primary pneumonia ...	23			2		1	2	3	4	4	2	3	2	9		
Acute influenzal pneumonia ...	7								1			5	1			
Puerperal Pyrexia	1									1					1	
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	1	1														
Erysipelas	4									1	1	2			2	
TOTALS ...	81	1	2	4	2	5	15	15	7	13	4	10	3	10	46	1

TUBERCULOSIS.

New Cases and Mortality during 1937.

Age Periods.	New Cases				Deaths.			
	Respiratory.		Non-Respiratory.		Respiratory.		Non-Respiratory.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Years								
0								
1			1	1				
5								
10				1				
15		1				1		
20	1	2						
25	1			1	1			
35	1			1	1			
45	1	1	1		1	1		
55	2					1		
65 and upwards ...								
Totals ...	6	4	2	4	3	3	0	0
	10		6		6		0	

The services of the County Tuberculosis Officer are fully used and appreciated. All T.B. cases were notified before death took place and generally notification is prompt.

FACTORY AND WORKSHOPS ACT, 1901.

Number of Inspections.

Factories	68	Written Notices	Nil.
Workshops	96	Written Notices	Nil.

Defects Found.

Want of Cleanliness, 30. Remedied 30.

Defective sanitary accommodation, 2. Remedied, 2.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

JOHN YOUNG, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.